



# The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club October, 2013 Newsletter



Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month at 7:00 PM at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 300 N. Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio



**Ham Radio Rocks**

## Local Ham Community

**K8EEN Repeater: 146.790 Mhz (-600 Khz With PL of 71.9 Hz)  
KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 Mhz (+5Mhz With PL of 71.9 Hz)**

**Sunday Night ARES Net at 9:00 P.M. on The K8EEN Repeater  
Wednesday Night Social Net at 9:00 P.M. on the KD8EVR Repeater**



## **E. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD Appointed AMSAT VP- Educational Relations**

AMSAT President Barry Baines, WD4ASW has accepted the resignation of Mark Hammond, N8MH as VP-Educational Relations and appointed E. Michael McCardel, KC8YLD as his replacement.



**EMike McCardel, KC8YLD**

Mark Hammond, N8MH of Coats, NC has served as VP-Educational Relations since December 2011. During his tenure, Mark established a team focused on educational issues and supporting the educational objectives of AMSAT. A highlight for the team was the ARISS contact conducted during the 2012 Pacificon Convention in October 2012 in Santa Clara, CA that provided an opportunity for a group of selected young people from the Santa Clara area to ask questions directly to an astronaut on board the International Space Station with an audience of the participant's family members and amateur radio operators in attendance. Managing a school contact during an ARRL Convention provided a

**The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, October 14, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.**

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**Please remember to check into the long running Sunday Night ARES net at 9:00 P.M. on the K8EEN 2-meter Repeater.**

**Also check out the UHF net on the KD8EVR Repeater. This net runs each Wednesday at 9:00 P.M. and is a social net. Please join us for the fun of it.**

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**Every Wednesday at 5:00 PM, MVARC club members meet at Wendy's, 522 South Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Dinner Coordinator Dick Huggins, N8RDH, reports good turnouts for this event. Come share dinner with friends, or make new friends, by attending one or all of these events.**

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**Join MVARC club members every second Saturday of the month for breakfast. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, reports good turnouts for this event.**

**\*\*\*The next Breakfast will be Saturday, October 12, 2013 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio\*\*\***

unique opportunity to highlight ARISS before a much wider audience that appreciated both the technical details of communications technology and the wonder of students speaking to an astronaut. Members of Mark's Education Team, including Joe Spier, K6WAO, Dale Hunzeker, KJ6VUC and E.Mike were all involved in the management of the ARISS contact at Pacificon.

In his 22 months of service, Mark developed a strong working relationship with the ARRL Education Department, NASA Education at Johnson Space Center, various universities which AMSAT had established working relationships, plus AMSAT members interested in finding ways of placing amateur radio satellites in the classroom. Mark has served as a member of the review team (which included ARRL and JSC Education) which evaluated applications for ARISS school contacts. His close working relationship with Mark Spencer, WA8SME encouraged "Spence" to develop some creative educational concepts, such as the Fox-1 Attitude Determination Experiment Simulator that was featured in the July/August 2013 of the AMSAT JOURNAL. Mark also represented AMSAT-NA at the 2012 AMSAT-UK Space Colloquium at Guilford, which provided an opportunity for him to interact with the AMSAT-UK FUNCube-1 team responsible for developing educational materials in support of that satellite's educational objectives.

Mark's resignation is due to his appointment effective September 1, 2013 as vice president of academic affairs and provost of Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC. The increased workload and travel associated with his new position has forced Mark to re-evaluate his diminishing available time. His conclusion was that he could not devote the time necessary to fulfill his AMSAT educational responsibilities.

AMSAT President Barry Baines, WD4ASW notes, "Mark re-invigorated a critical area for AMSAT, establishing new relationships with key organizations outside of AMSAT and helping us to better understand and respond to the challenges of fulfilling our vision of using amateur radio satellites in support of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in the classroom. AMSAT's loss is Campbell University's gain, and we wish Mark well in his new position." Barry also observed, "Fortunately for AMSAT, Mark will serve as a member of the AMSAT Board of Directors, having just been elected by the AMSAT membership, which allows AMSAT to benefit from Mark's insight and perspective in dealing with AMSAT's strategic issues."

Mark's leadership on education has enhanced AMSAT's focus on an important aspect of AMSAT's mission. "Over the past two years I've had the distinct pleasure of interacting with some very capable individuals who are passionate about integrating amateur radio satellites into the classroom as well as working with individuals who make the ARISS program such a worldwide success," reflected Mark. "I have every confidence in E.Mike as he continues to further enrich AMSAT's education outreach program by not only continuing initiatives already set into motion, but by establishing new and exciting ones as well."

With Mark's resignation, the appointment of "EMike" McCardel, KC8YLD of Danville, OH as the new VP-Educational Relations is also announced. First licensed in 2003, EMike's initial interest in amateur radio was due to the ISS and the desire to interact with the astronauts on board. That initial interest broadened in its scope to include amateur radio satellites and AMSAT, joining in 2011 and was subsequently drawn to the educational outreach efforts of Mark Hammond's new Educational Relations team.

E.Mike's professional background incorporated teaching and working with young people inside and outside the classroom, including having worked with the developmentally disabled. For the past 18 years, he has served as an IT manager at Kenyon College, Gambier, OH as a member of the college's Library and Information Services Department. EMike retired from Kenyon this past June.

McCardel's interest in education outreach has also been reflected in his volunteer work under the ARRL with the "Ohio Section Educational Outreach Initiative" which E.Mike notes, "focuses on building relationships with teachers and students beginning with our own children and grandchildren and their teachers. As teachers become aware and have a better understanding of our resources, they adjust to find ways to fit it into the curriculum."

From this experience, E.Mike is hopeful that the focus on reaching out to teachers can be encouraged under AMSAT. "I hope to expand on this theme with AMSAT while continuing to build the strong relationships Mark has been developing with our Colleges and Universities. I am challenged to follow in Mark's shoes. He has been a good mentor and friend and I believe that he constructed a firm foundation upon which we can build and move AMSAT's educational outreach forward."

[ANS thanks AMSAT President Barry Baines, WD4ASW, for the above information]

**Congratulations to our very own Mike McCardel, KC8YLD. EMike has been working very hard for the ARRL and Amsat organizations and recently retired from Kenyon College with the expressed purpose of spending more time with these endeavors. Looks like he has found his calling. --Don, W8PEN, Newsletter Editor**



## 2013 Christmas Dinner and Club Meeting Plans Announced

At the September meeting, President Jim Jennessee, KD8UT, announced plans he has been working on for the clubs annual Christmas Dinner and December Club meeting. Plans were approved by voice vote.

We will be in a banquet room at Parkside Restaurant.

The major change from past Christmas Dinners is that Parkside requests that the meals be paid in advance. I believe the plan is to send out invitations to all club members and their family and friends so that members can pay for their meals before the dinner and hopefully pay 2014 dues while they are at it.

Dinner and meeting is open to all members & family, friends, or anyone interested in Ham Radio.

Here are the details:

**When:** Sunday, December 8th, 2013

**Time:** 6:00 P.M.

**Where:** Parkside Restaurant, 108 Mount Vernon Ave, Mount Vernon, OH

### MENU:

Your choice of: Sirloin Steak, Chicken Parmesan or Broiled Tilapia

Your choice of: Baked Potato, Sweet Potato, Rice or Vegetable

House Salad (Mazza Salad for \$1.50/person extra)

Dessert and Beverage (tea, soda, water, etc) included  
This meal will be provided for \$13.99 plus Tax and Gratuity (final price TBD)



### The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

**President:** Jim Jennessee, KD8UT  
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**V. President:** Don Russell, W8PEN  
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**Secretary:** Jeff Butz, N8SMT  
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**Treasurer:** Barry Butz, N8PPF  
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Phone: 740-397-7540

**Trustee:** Don Russell, W8PEN  
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Members are encouraged to send articles pertaining to Amateur Radio, with an emphasis on local activity, equipment reviews, and personal experiences to the Newsletter Editor. Articles are due on the Sunday before the first Monday of the month.

**Newsletter Editor:** Don Russell, W8PEN  
[w8pen@arrl.net](mailto:w8pen@arrl.net)

# Should the FCC allow encryption?



By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One of the most fundamental rules in amateur radio has been the prohibition against the use of codes or ciphers meant to obscure the meaning of a message [Part 97.113 (4)]. Recently, that long-standing prohibition was challenged (<http://www.arrl.org/news/rules-change-sought-to-permit-encryption-of-sensitive-emergency-communications>) to allow encryption when passing emergency health and welfare traffic. The idea was that encrypting these messages would protect the privacy of individuals. In his Petition for Rulemaking (<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7022424684>), Don Rolph, AB1PH, pointed out that Australian amateur radio rules permit encryption for emergency services operation or related training exercises.

Oddly enough, the pushback against this petition has been loud and swift. The ARRL quickly came out against the petition (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-urges-denial-of-petition-to-permit-encryption-of-some-emergency-communications>), and when I blogged about this issue (<http://www.kb6nu.com/im-jumping-on-the-anti-encryption-bandwagon/>), several hams replied that they didn't think allowing encryption was a good idea.

The main arguments against encryption seem to be that:

- \* It will make people suspicious of amateur radio operators and bring unwanted scrutiny upon amateur radio.
- \* Make self-policing more difficult.

Among the arguments for allowing encryption are that cryptography is a fundamental element of modern RF communications, and that not allowing it, negates one of the purposes of amateur radio. Namely, that one of the purposes of amateur radio is to "advance the state of the radio art."

In late September, the FCC dismissed this particular Petition for Rulemaking

(<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-dismisses-encryption-petition>).

It stated specifically that "the record does not support Mr Rolph's assertion that the prohibition on encrypted amateur communications is impairing the ability of the Amateur Radio community to provide effective support to public safety agencies during emergencies."

Of course, this discussion isn't over yet. Encryption is now employed routinely for even the most common types of digital communication, and as a newer generation of amateur radio operators take over, they'll want to experiment with these digital communications techniques. One commenter suggested that a portion of the 900 MHz band or maybe the 5 GHz band be set aside for experimentation with encryption. I think that is an idea worth exploring.

What do you think? Does encryption have a place in amateur radio?

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When he's not pondering FCC rules, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## MVARC Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club Minutes for the July 8, 2013 Meeting



By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

### Attendees:

- |                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| 1. David Byrd    | KD8RST |
| 2. Emery Bennett | W8TW   |
| 3. Barry Butz    | N8PPF  |
| 4. Don Bunner    | KB8QPO |
| 5. Jim Williams  | N8IBR  |
| 6. John Barr     | KD8FXX |
| 7. Tracy Burton  |        |

- 8. Max Stimmel
- 9. Matt Ware KD8PSK
- 10. Tom Evans KD8HSA
- 11. Don Russell W8PEN
- 12. Jim Jennessee KD8UT
- 13. Mike McCardel KC8YLD
- 14. Jeff Butz N8SMT
- 15. Carl Payne AC8LQ
- 16. Patrick Valentino KD8PSM
- 17. Tom Kern KD8OZV
- 18. Steve Barr KD8GRM

President Jennessee opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Barry Butz, N8PPF, gave the monthly treasurers report.

Don Russell, W8PEN gave the repeater report and said there have been some Echolink issues on the 2 meter repeater and that he worked on them over the weekend and believes they have been solved. Other than that both repeaters are working well.

Don Russell, W8PEN gave the Field Day report and said the CW people made 727 contacts and the Side Band people made 558 contacts. All and all it was a great Field Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

## Minutes for the August 13, 2013 Meeting

### Attendees:

- 19. Mark Bisenius AC8FV
- 20. Jim Williams N8IBR
- 21. David Byrd KD8RST
- 22. Emery Bennett W8TW
- 23. Scott Fields K8AEC
- 24. John Barr KD8FXX
- 25. Tom Evans KD8HSA
- 26. Jeff Butz N8SMT
- 27. Anthony Spiegel KC8UR
- 28. Ruben Clark KB2SAI
- 29. Melinda Clark KD8RZZ
- 30. Jim Jennessee KD8UT
- 31. Don Blizzard K8UMH
- 32. Don Russell W8PEN
- 33. Tracy Burton KD8BIA
- 34. Matt Stimmel KD8VIB
- 35. Frank Counts KC8EVS

President Bradford opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

### EC Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI

Ruben said the EMA has agreed to purchase some new equipment to be installed for ARES at the County EOC. He has put together and they have agreed to buy a Kenwood TS-2000, and to put up a 20-meter to 160-meter wire antenna, and an 80-meter NVIS antenna so we can use HF to get into the State EOC in Columbus.

### Repeater Report: Don Russell, W8PEN

Both repeaters are running good. Don said he had to take the 440 repeater Echolink down because he was having trouble running both Echolinks at the same time. He has a extra computer if someone has a radio and would like to host the Echolink.

### Old Business:

President Jennessee brought up the discussion of having our annual eat the Field Day Leftovers Picnic at the next meeting at one of the local parks. Emery Bennett said he would investigate and get back to President Jennessee who would intern notify the club members of when and where.

### New Business:

Don Russell would like to club to buy a nice used HF rig with an autotuner to have on hand when necessary. Don made a motion to sell the club's Kenwood TS-830 and Heathkit 101 and to put the money towards a replacement radio. The motion was carried by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

## Treasurer's Report

Oct 5, 2012  
for Aug 1 to Sep 30, 2013

<u>Balance on 7-31-13:</u>	\$ 2781.32
<u>Income:</u>	
Dues:	\$
50-50:	\$ 24.00
Interest:	\$ 1.02
Radio donation and sale:	\$ 136.00
Silent auction:	\$ 50.00
<u>Expenses:</u>	
<u>Balance on 9-30-13:</u>	\$ 2992.34
<u>Designated Funds:</u>	
Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	\$ 536.39
Field Day Fund:	\$ 221.00
Communication Vehicle Fund:	\$ 471.04

Barry Butz N8PPF

# Radio-Activity



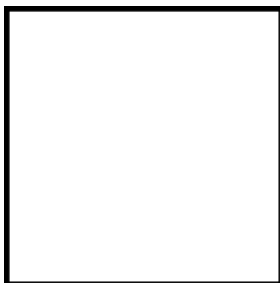
By Don Russell, W8PEN

Remember the three band rotatable dipole that I put on my tower a few years ago? That was a very good antenna for me. I like to contest and in the past I had always used a beam on 20 – 10 meters. Problem with the beam was I always had to take it down every few years for repair and taking a 60 pound antenna off of a 50 foot tower by myself was getting to be a bit much for me. I also noticed that I worked a lot of stations off the back of the beam which lead me to the idea that I may be better off with a dipole with which I would have equal signal in both directions. Dipoles have a figure eight radiation pattern broadside to the antenna. The dipole weighed less than five pounds solving the first problem and I was correct with the second issue. During the contest after installing the dipole, I made over 200 contacts on 20 meters. With the beam, I usually made under 100. So for my situation, the rotatable dipole proved to be the answer to my problems.

Unfortunately, the dipole had to be taken down last year as some of the wires had broken. I never got the chance to rebuild this antenna.

With Fall and Winter contest season fast approaching my thoughts turned to putting up another dipole to cover the 20 – 10 meter bands. Then I thought perhaps I should try something a little different. A loop antenna would give me a little bit of gain and still give me the broadside radiation pattern I seek.

A loop antenna is simply a one wavelength loop usually formed into a quad, triangle, or diamond. Legs are usually of equal lengths. The square loop can be fed at any corner, or the center of any of the legs.



Quad Loop antenna

Two problems occur to me with a loop antenna:

1. It will not be rotatable
2. It will not be a true multiband antenna unless I make loops for each band, which makes the antenna more complicated.

Not being rotatable was not a big concern. I rarely turned the dipole so I figure I would be okay.

Since my main band would be 20 meters, I figured I could run the loop into an antenna tuner to work 15 and 10 meters. The bigger issue was should I run coax to the antenna tuner or use open wire line?

From my research, I understand that loop antennas are very broad banded and the SWR should be under 3:1 on the three bands I am interested in using. Plus, by using an antenna tuner, I should be able to work a few bands I usually don't bother with (the WARC bands). For now, I have decided to feed the loop with coax and use the internal antenna tuner on my radio. If need be I can switch to my external auto antenna tuner later and use ladder line.

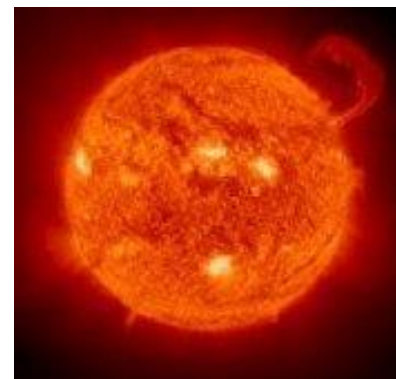
Since my main band is to be 20 meters, I needed to calculate the length of a full wave loop antenna. This was as easy as doing an internet search:

$$\text{Length (feet)} = 1005 / \text{Freq (14.1 Mhz)}$$

$$1005 / 14.1 = 71.27 \text{ feet.}$$

Since I am using an antenna tuner, I will simply round this off to 71 feet. This will mean that each leg of the loop would need to be 17.75 feet long. That is a problem! I bought a couple of plastic 1-1/4 pvc pipes to act as my loop supports. They are 10 feet long so my loop is going to have to be a modified loop. Hey, if it won't fit, experiment! So, my sides are going to be 10 feet horizontal and 25-1/2 feet vertical. Not the perfect loop, but it should work just fine.

This is the antenna I am planning on trying. I cannot report on performance yet because I have not put it up yet. But I have a few more weeks before bad weather hits and a vacation coming up. Also, final design is still in the thinking stage. I may go with a diamond shaped antenna and not use the pvc pipe. Let you know next month how it works out.



# Upcoming Exam Sessions

- Exam Session

10/19/2013 | [Mansfield OH 44907-1502](#)

**Sponsor:** Inter-City ARC

**Location:** Peoples Community Center

**Time:** 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

- Exam Session

11/03/2013 | [Marion OH 43302-1523](#)

**Sponsor:** Marion ARC

**Location:** TV 39

**Time:** 2:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

- Exam Session

11/03/2013 | [Massillon OH 44647-7960](#)

**Sponsor:** Massillon ARC Hamfest

**Location:** Massillon Boys and Girls Club

**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

- Exam Session

11/09/2013 | [Reynoldsburg OH 43068-3340](#)

**Sponsor:** All Ohio ARES Conference

**Location:** Ohio Fire Academy

**Time:** 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

- Exam Session

12/07/2013 | [Rittman OH 44270-1431](#)

**Sponsor:** Silvercreek ARA

**Location:** Rittman Public Library

**Time:** 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

**Membership Form**

Club dues run from Jan. 1 until Dec. 31 and are collected during the last quarter of the year. You can mail in the dues to the address below or bring them to a meeting. Dues are prorated for new members at the time of application. Visit our Web Page at [www.mvarc.net](http://www.mvarc.net)

Dues Schedule: \$12 regular

\$10 for second member in the same family and for those over 65 yrs. of age.

**Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 372, Mt. Vernon, OH 43050**

Name\_\_\_\_\_Call-Sign\_\_\_\_\_

Street\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_License Class\_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member (Y/N)\_\_\_\_\_E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_

Extra Donation (Optional)\_\_\_\_\_

Members are entitled to a free MVARC E-Mail address. Would you like one? No\_\_\_\_Yes\_\_\_\_

If yes please enter password\_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments: